



JOINT COMMISSION
APPOINTED TO ARRANGE FOR A
WORLD CONFERENCE
ON
FAITH AND ORDER

"Ἴνα πάντες ἐν ᾧσι, καθὼς σύ, πάτερ, ἐν ἐμοὶ καὶ γὼ ἐν σοί,
ἵνα καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐν ἡμῖν ἐν ᾧσιν, ἵνα ὁ κόσμος πιστεύσῃ ὅτι
σύ με ἀπέστειλας.

Ut omnes unum sint, sicut tu Pater in me, et ego in te, ut
et ipsi in nobis unum sint, ut credat mundus, quia tu me
misisti.

*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I
in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may
believe that thou hast sent me.*



REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON PLAN AND SCOPE

ADOPTED APRIL 20, 1911

AT the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, a Committee to consider a resolution offered by the Rev. W. T. Manning, D.D., recommended the following:

WHEREAS, There is to-day among all Christian people a growing desire for the fulfillment of Our Lord's prayer that all His disciples may be one; that the world may believe that God has sent Him:

RESOLVED, The House of Bishops concurring, That a Joint Commission be appointed to bring about a Conference for the consideration of questions touching Faith and Order, and that all Christian Communion throughout the world which confess our Lord JESUS CHRIST as God and Saviour be asked to unite with us in arranging for and conducting such a Conference. The Commission shall consist of seven Bishops, appointed by the Chairman of the House of Bishops, and seven Presbyters and seven Laymen, appointed by the President of the House of Deputies, and shall have power to add to its number and to fill any vacancies occurring before the next General Convention.

This resolution was unanimously adopted by both the House of Bishops and the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies on October 19, 1910, and the Commission appointed.

The report of the Committee on Plan and Scope which follows was adopted by the Commission on April 20, 1911, and ordered printed.

¶ Copies of this leaflet, of a leaflet containing the full report made to the General Convention, and of the publications which it is expected the Commission will issue from time to time, may be had free on application to the Secretary, Robert H. Gardiner, Gardiner, Maine, U. S. A.

¶ Contributions for the expenses of the Commission and the Conference may be sent to the Treasurer, George Zabriskie, 49 Wall St., New York, U. S. A.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PLAN AND SCOPE

SINCE the appointment of our Commission, important preliminary steps have been taken, the movement for the World Conference has begun to take shape, and in many directions the suggestion has received favorable and warm response.

A number of the leading Protestant Communion in this country already have appointed Commissions prepared to act, and other Communion are taking steps to secure the appointment of Commissions.

It is important, therefore, that we should have before us as a Commission, and be prepared to present to others, a preliminary plan of action outlined as clearly as the case admits, and keeping in view the principles by which our action is to be governed.

The Committee on Plan and Scope accordingly submits the following statement and outline:

I. THE ULTIMATE AIM AND PURPOSE

THE work of the Conference is undertaken with the definite hope that it may help to prepare the way for the outward and visible reunion of all who confess our Lord **JESUS CHRIST** as **GOD** and **SAVIOUR**, and for the fulfillment of our Lord's prayer, "That they all may be one."

II. THE IMMEDIATE PURPOSE AND THE SCOPE OF THE PRESENT UNDERTAKING

THE purpose and the scope of this Commission are defined by the resolution of the General Convention and the report of the Committee recommending that resolution. The immediate purpose is to bring about as "the next step towards unity," a Conference for the consideration of questions of Faith and Order

to be participated in by representatives of the whole Christian world, both Catholic and Protestant.

This work is to be undertaken in "the belief that the beginnings of unity are to be found in the clear statement and full consideration of those things in which we differ, as well as of those things in which we are at one."

It is ordered "that all Christian Communions throughout the world which confess our Lord JESUS CHRIST as GOD and SAVIOUR be asked to unite with us in arranging for and conducting such a Conference."

The action taken by the Convention contemplates "a Conference for the purpose of study and discussion without power to legislate or to adopt resolutions."

To reëmphasize these important points:

1. The Conference is for the definite purpose of considering those things in which we differ, in the hope that a better understanding of divergent views of Faith and Order will result in a deepened desire for reunion and in official action on the part of the separated Communions themselves. It is the business of the Conference, not to take such official action, but to inspire it and to prepare the way for it.

2. All Christian Communions are to be asked "to unite with us in arranging for and conducting" the Conference. We, ourselves, are to take only preliminary action, and at the earliest moment possible are to act in association with others. Formal association for joint action can be effected only after a sufficient number of commissions shall have been appointed, and sufficient opportunity to appoint such commissions shall have been afforded to all Communions, both Catholic and Protestant.

3. The Conference will have no power to commit any participating Communion upon any point.

III. GENERAL PLAN OF ACTION

OBVIOUSLY any plan outlined at present can be only tentative. To bring the idea of the Conference more definitely before our minds, it is suggested that, at the proper times, appropriate action be taken along the following lines :

1. That the prayers of all Christian people be asked for God's blessing upon this undertaking.

2. That as soon as practicable similar commissions or committees be appointed by Christian Communions throughout the world, such commissions or committees to be independent, though coöperating.

3. That arrangements be made for such joint meetings of such Commissions as may be found convenient.

4. That final plans and arrangements for the World Conference be worked out by an executive body constituted by the several action of such commissions.

IV. RECORD OF ACTION TAKEN

APPPOINTMENT of Commission by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

2. Appointment of Congregational Commission.

3. Appointment of Commission by the Disciples of Christ.

4. Approval of proposed Conference by the Executive Commission of the Alliance of Reformed Churches throughout the world holding the Presbyterian System, and designation of their Executive Committee to act for the Commission on all matters relating to the calling of such Conference.

5. Official communication from our Commission to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America requesting appointment of Commission.

6. Assurances from ministers and laymen of the Baptist Churches of interest and readiness to coöperate, and of their intention to propose formal action to that end by approaching Conventions of the Baptist Churches.

7. Informal Conference in New York, March 2, 1911, between members of our Commission, of the Presbyterian World Wide Alliance Executive Committee, of the Congregational Commission, and of the Commission of the Disciples of Christ; at which the following was adopted: "Resolved, That it is the earnest desire of the members of this Conference, other than those connected with the Protestant Episcopal Church, that the Commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church should communicate officially to the Churches the action of the General Convention with reference to the proposal for a World Conference of all Christian Churches on Faith and Order."

8. Presentation of the subject before the Lutheran Social Union at Philadelphia, February 20, 1911.

9. Interview by appointment between two members of the Commission and Cardinal Gibbons at Baltimore, in which the Cardinal expressed friendly interest in the subject, a desire to be kept informed of the progress of the movement, and a conviction both that clear statement of positions would show them to be nearer together than had been supposed, and that only good could come of the effort to promote the spirit in which such a Conference should be undertaken. The interview closed with prayer offered by His Eminence.

10. Interview between Archbishop Platon of the Holy Orthodox Eastern Church and a member of the Commission, in which the Archbishop expressed great interest in Church Unity, and said that whenever the Commission should communicate formally

with him with regard to the proposed Conference, he would give the communication cordial approval, and would coöperate in transmitting it to the Holy Governing Synod in Russia.

11. Numerous private interviews and informal conferences between members of this Commission and representative ministers and laymen of other communions, and several public addresses, evoking invariably expressions of sympathetic interest and readiness for coöperation.

12. Notice has been received to date of July 25, 1911, of the appointment of Commissions as follows :

By the College of Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

By the Convention of the Southern Baptist Church.

By the Provincial Elders' Conference of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America.

By the Reformed Church in the United States.

By the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

By the Board of Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North. (*A Committee of Inquiry.*)

By the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the United States.

By the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

By the United Presbyterian Church of North America.

By the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.

By the Northern Baptist Convention.

By the Conference of Free Baptists.

By the Reformed Church in America.

By the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America.

By the Nippon Sei Kokwai of Japan. (*Official notice not yet received.*)

NOTE: The last section has been added since the report was presented.

The Commissions of the National Council of Congregational Churches and of the Disciples of Christ were appointed at the same time as that of the Episcopal Church, but independently.

V. RESOLUTIONS

IN accordance with the foregoing plan of action, the Commission adopted the following resolutions:

1. RESOLVED, That this report be accepted as embodying a preliminary outline and plan of the work of the Commission.

2. RESOLVED, That this Commission undertake no formal business except to engage the coöperation of "all Christian Communions which confess our Lord JESUS CHRIST as GOD and SAVIOUR, in arranging for and conducting" a World Conference on questions of Faith and Order, and to act for this Church in relation to such Conference.

3. RESOLVED, That special efforts be directed to obtain the coöperation of representative bodies of the principal Communions, both Catholic and Protestant, before undertaking the formal work of arranging for and conducting the proposed Conference.

4. RESOLVED, That informal conferences and other interchanges of views between members of different Christian Communions be encouraged and promoted in order to stimulate interest in the undertaking and to prepare the way for the achievement of the purpose of the proposed Conference.

5. RESOLVED, That the Committee on Plan and Scope be given the powers of an executive committee with authority to determine all questions, and to authorize all procedures, which ought to be determined and authorized between meetings of the Commission,

the said Committee to report their actions at the subsequent meetings of the Commission.

6. **RESOLVED**, That the following arrangements be adopted for issuing publications :

a. Publications shall be of two kinds, official and unofficial.

b. A note substantially as follows shall be printed in each unofficial publication : "This document is deemed worthy of publication by the Commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church on a World Conference on Faith and Order, which, however, does not hold itself responsible for any statement or opinion therein expressed."

c. No official publication shall be issued except by the authority of the Commission, or of the Committee on Plan and Scope, nor shall any official publication be issued which will have the effect of answering beforehand any question which is to be considered by the proposed World Conference.

d. A Committee on Literature consisting of three members shall be appointed by the President of the Commission, and no document shall be published until after it shall have been examined and approved for publication by a majority of the members of the Committee on Literature.

e. No document shall be issued without the authority of the Commission or of the Committee on Plan and Scope.

f. All publications shall be issued under the supervision of the Secretary of the Commission.

7. **RESOLVED**, That the President and Secretary of this Commission be hereby authorized and instructed as soon as practicable to send, with their official signatures appended, a formal letter to the Archbishops and Metropolitans of the Anglican Communion, stating the purpose for which this Commission has been

appointed, and asking for their advice, coöperation, and prayers, and the appointment of Commissions with similar powers on behalf of their respective Churches; *And further Resolved*, That the Committee on Plan and Scope be authorized in their discretion to appoint a Committee consisting of one or more Bishops to present the matter personally to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York, and to such others as it may deem desirable; *And further Resolved*, That the President and the Secretary address a suitable communication to the Bishops of the Anglican Communion throughout the world.

8. **RESOLVED**, That a Committee be appointed to communicate with the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church in regard to the aims and objects of the Commission, and with the view of securing their interest and coöperation in promoting the Conference on Faith and Order.

9. **RESOLVED**, That a Committee with similar duties be appointed to communicate with the authorities of the Holy Orthodox Eastern Churches.

10. **RESOLVED**, That a Committee with similar duties be appointed to communicate with the authorities of the Old Catholic Churches.

11. **RESOLVED**, That the President and the Secretary of this Commission be hereby authorized and instructed to send suitable communications to the authorities of Protestant Communions.

12. **RESOLVED**, That, as soon as the same shall receive the approval of the Committee on Literature, the bibliography submitted by Dr. Hall be printed by the Secretary as an unofficial document.

13. **RESOLVED**, That a special Committee be appointed to study and report on the best means of communicating with Established National Churches other than the Church of England.

14. RESOLVED, That the President and the Secretary send official letters to those Communion whose governing bodies meet before the next meeting of this Commission, suggesting to them the appointment of Commissions to act with us.

15. RESOLVED, That a committee be appointed to report how best to approach Christian Communion for which no special provision has been made in this report.

Invitations, as above ordered, have been issued to the Protestant Communion in the United States, where it could be learned that they would hold their meetings before the next meeting of this Commission, and to the Archbishops, Metropolitans, and Bishops of the Anglican Communion.

There has not yet been sufficient time to hear from some of the Communions invited, but the Commissions appointed, so far as reported up to July 25, 1911, are as follows :

THE COMMISSION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rt. Rev. C. P. Anderson, D.D., *President*, Bishop of Chicago,
1612 Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Rt. Rev. Boyd Vincent, D.D., Bishop of Southern Ohio,
223 West 7th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Gailor, D.D., Bishop of Tennessee,
346 Poplar Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

Rt. Rev. A. C. A. Hall, D.D., Bishop of Vermont,
Burlington, Vermont.

Rt. Rev. C. B. Brewster, D.D., Bishop of Connecticut,
Hartford, Connecticut.

Rt. Rev. Reginald H. Weller, D.D., Bishop Coadjutor of
Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Rt. Rev. Charles H. Brent, D.D., Bishop of the Philippine
Islands, 253 Calle Nozaleda, Manila, Philippine Islands.

Rt. Rev. David H. Greer, D.D., Bishop of New York,
Gramercy Park, New York, N. Y.

Rt. Rev. F. J. Kinsman, D.D., Bishop of Delaware,
Wilmington, Delaware.

Rev. William T. Manning, D.D., *Chairman Committee on
Plan and Scope*, 187 Fulton Street, New York, N. Y.

Rev. Alexander Mann, D.D.,
233 Clarendon Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Rev. Francis J. Hall, D.D.,
2731 Park Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Rev. B. Talbot Rogers, D.D., Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Rev. William M. Clark, D.D.,
1008 Park Avenue, Richmond, Virginia.

Rev. Edward L. Parsons,
2532 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, California.

Rev. Philip M. Rhineland, D.D.,
12th and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.

Rev. Henry S. Nash, D.D., Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Rev. A. G. Mortimer, D.D.,
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Seth Low, LL.D., 30 East 64th Street, New York.
J. Pierpont Morgan, LL.D., 23 Wall Street, New York.
George Wharton Pepper, LL.D.,
Land Title and Trust Building, Philadelphia, Pa.
Samuel Mather,
Western Reserve Building, Cleveland, Ohio.
Francis L. Stetson, 15 Broad Street, New York.
Edward P. Bailey,
2400 South Park Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.
George Zabriskie, D.C.L., *Treasurer*,
49 Wall Street, New York.
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Rev. Newman Smyth, D.D., *Chairman*,
54 Trumbull Street, New Haven, Conn.
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25 Storer Street, Portland, Maine.
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PRAYERS FOR THE PEACE AND
UNITY OF THE CHURCH

O LORD Jesus Christ, Who saidst unto Thine Apostles, Peace, I leave with you, My peace, I give unto you ; regard not our sins, but the faith of Thy Church, and grant her that peace and unity which is agreeable to Thy will, Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

O GOD of Peace, Who through Thy Son Jesus Christ didst set forth One Faith for the salvation of mankind : Send Thy grace and heavenly blessing upon all Christian people who are striving to draw nearer to Thee, and to each other in the Unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace. Give us penitence for our divisions, wisdom to know Thy truth, courage to do Thy will, love which shall break down the barriers of pride and prejudice, and an unswerving loyalty to Thy Holy Name. Suffer us not to shrink from any endeavour which is in accordance with Thy will, for the peace and unity of Thy Church. Give us boldness to seek only Thy glory and the advancement of Thy Kingdom. Unite us all in Thee as Thou art in unity with thy Son : Who, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth ever, One God, world without end. Amen.